2:Sanders E-5 (no date) 1949 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

formation as to wash days: "We wash twice a week: on Monday and Wednesday, or on Wednesday and Saturday."

Many of the yards still had the threshing floor, reminiscent of Old Testament days. This could be located by a forlorn post which seemed to be serving no useful purpose. In the fall great quantities of drying wool hung from the clotheslines; and a little later the family piled in the yard the winter supply of wood from the forest.

The eaves of the house, deep as they were, sheltered such things as strings of drying peppers and ears of corn; milk utensils hung beneath them practically the year round; even the scythes and wooden hayforks found frequent lodging there. Storks nested in the trees and chimneys. With the coming of the warmer weather the sheep left their folds in the yards for the pastures, and the shepherd took with him his wattled shelter, which he moved on sleds across the grassy meadows.

[789] In many yards a heavy, large-wheeled wagon stood near the primitive sheds for the animals and the ever-present strawstack. If the peasants were unusually superstitious, there would be dabs of blue paint on the wagon to keep the Evil Eye away. When the weather was nice there were usually children at play in the yard. Upon seeing a visitor they added their lusty shouts to the ominous barking of the dogs. They chased the dogs away from the gate by throwing sticks and stones at them, and at the same time warned the visitor to be on the alert. Far too often the dogs sneaked up behind to nip an ankle of the unsuspecting visitor.

The yards had few flowers, because chickens of a nondescript variety pecked freely throughout the premises. One or two scraggly trees, from which the children shook most of the fruit before it had time to ripen, stood in a corner wistfully seeking to give a touch of beauty to the scene. In the spring the blossoms of such trees made the village bright, but when the fruit and leaves were gone the bare, black skeletons of the trees fitted in only too well with the poverty and sternness of village life. Poor land, inefficiently tilled, contributed to this poverty. Although the peasants worked hard in their fields, they had little cash on hand after selling their crops and paying their debts. Home improvements were postponed from year to year but the hard work kept on just the same.

274 sumption of wine is about 23 litres per capita yearly, as against 153 in France and 101 in Italy. Owners of vineyards were complaining that they could not meet their expenses as grapes grown for wine were a drug on the market. It was stated in the Sobranye on Dec. 8. 1931 that while revenue from vineyards was 600 millions, expenditure on them was 720 million leva, while the capital they represented was 13,000 million.

245 [242] [439] Concurrently with the vine, orchard planting has received a great impetus, the State having established 39 nurseries and experimental stations from which young fruit trees are supplied to farmers at a nominal price. Apples and plums are being exported in increasing quantities, as well as walnuts, of which 2083 tons were exported in 1934. The area occupied by orchards was stated to be 19,420 hectares in 1932, of which 12,030 hectares were planted with plum trees, 919 with apple trees, 122 with pear trees and 6,349 were described as mixed orchards.

• 247 303 [439] Bulgaria is renowned for its attar of roses; unfortunately the world crisis has affected to a great extent this industry, and the area planted with rose bushes (6800 hectares in 1931) is consequently being reduced since the export of this product has declined from 3,157 kg. valued at 240 million leva in 1928, to 1218 kg. valued at 36 millions in 1934. Consequently a surplus stock of some 3000 kg. has accumulated and this has affected prices, which from 80,000 leva per kg. in 1932, have declined since to about a third of that figure One of the reasons of this falling off in the quantity exported, is the relative high cost of the attar of roses, due most likely to the unduly large amount of capital invested in the distilleries, the capacity of which is disproportionately great to the roses available for distillation, and which moreover work for only one month in the year. In fact, the 32 distilleries which were operating in 1931 were stated to have cost

145 million leva, of which 64 millions were represented by machinery and buildings while their output for the year was given as 1,773 kg. of attar of roses, estimated at 43,876,966 leva. It would be well if the cultivation of other aromatic plants were fostered in the valley of roses, in order that the existing distilleries could be more rationally utilised. M. Gheorghiev, the capable director of the Kazanlik State experimental station assured the writer that about forty such plants had been experimentally grown for a number of years and had given excellent results, among the most easily acclimatized were the *mentha piperita*, the hyssop, lavender, verbena and especially the pyrethrum, from which, as it is known, insecticides are manufactured. This certainly confirms a very witty remark made by the well known economist, T. At. Yaranov, namely, that every plant and animal which had been brought over from its native habitat into Bulgaria had thrived better, and improved by the change, he was sceptical however as to whether this generalisation held good for the genus „homo sapiens" about which he would not confidently assert that those of its members who had come over from the banks of the Volga, were as good as those who had remained behind!

A branch of agriculture in which Bulgarians excel is market gardening. Not only vegetables grown in Bulgaria are equal, if not superior to those grown in France and Italy, but Bulgarian gardeners have for years emigrated to adjoining countries, as well as to Russia before the revolution, and undertaken in these countries the growing of vegetables on a large scale, as the following excerpt from the Czechoslovak nerspaper, the *Prajka Zadgradnitska Boursa—Slovo* of May 14, 1932 testifies:

The Bulgarians have done us this great service that they taught us how to grow vegetables on our own soil. What our vegetable specialists were unable to